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August 26, 2020

Ms. Jocelyn Boyd  
Chief Clerk and Administrator  
South Carolina Public Service Commission  
Synergy Business Park, The Saluda Building  
101 Executive Center Drive  
Columbia SC 29210

**Re: Application of Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC to Expand Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (Lifeline Only) to Include St. George Exchange**

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC, please find an Application to Expand Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (Lifeline Only) to Include St. George Exchange. Also enclosed is a proposed Notice of Filing and Hearing.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Burr & Forman LLP



Margaret M. Fox

MMF/khh

Attachments

cc: Jeffrey M. Nelson, Esq.

BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2012-236-C

Application of Palmetto Telephone Communications,	)	
LLC to Expand Designation as an Eligible	)	<b>APPLICATION</b>
Telecommunications Carrier (Lifeline Only) to	)	
Include St. George Exchange	)	
	)	

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Pursuant to Section 214(e)(2)<sup>1</sup> of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the “Act”), Palmetto Communications, LLC (“Palmetto” or the “Applicant”) hereby files this application (“Application”) with the South Carolina Public Service Commission (“Commission”) to expand its designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) to include the St. George exchange (the “Designated Service Area”). Palmetto is seeking only low income (Lifeline) support, and is not requesting high cost support. Palmetto previously was designated as an ETC within the Walterboro and Yemassee exchanges for these purposes. *See* Order No. 2012-739. A list of the wire centers for which Palmetto is requesting expanded ETC status in the State of South Carolina is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

As demonstrated below, Palmetto meets all of the statutory and regulatory requirements for designation as an ETC in the Designated Service Area. Furthermore,

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<sup>1</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

designation of Palmetto as an ETC in the Designated Service Area will serve the public interest.

## **I. Contact Information**

1. Applicant's name and address are as follows:

Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC  
Post Office Drawer 1577  
Walterboro, SC 29448

2. Correspondence regarding this Application should be addressed to Applicant's counsel:

M. John Bowen, Jr.  
Margaret M. Fox  
Burr & Forman, LLP  
Post Office Box 11390  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211  
Telephone: (803) 799-9800  
Email: jbowen@burr.com; pfox@burr.com

3. The name, title, address and telephone number of the person who should be contacted in connection with general management of the company is:

Jason J. Dandridge  
Chief Executive Officer  
Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC  
Post Office Drawer 1577  
Walterboro, SC 29448  
Telephone: (843) 538-2020  
Email: Jason.Dandridge@prtc.coop

## **II. Background**

4. Applicant was organized as a Limited Liability Company in the State of South Carolina in 1998. Applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc., which has been providing local exchange telephone service in the State of South Carolina since 1955. In 1999, the Commission granted Applicant a

certificate to provide resold interexchange telecommunications services within the State of South Carolina. *See* Commission Order No. 1999-617 in Docket No. 1999-309-C. In 2004, the Commission granted Applicant a certificate to provide competitive local exchange and exchange access service to customers located in the Walterboro exchange served by Frontier Communications of the Carolinas, Inc., formerly Verizon South, Incorporated (“Frontier”). *See* Commission Order No. 2004-1 in Docket No. 2003-270-C. In 2011, the Commission granted Applicant’s request to expand its certificate to include authority to provide service to the Yemassee, Ehrhardt, Olar, and Fairfax exchanges served by Frontier, and the Hampton and Estill exchanges served by United Telephone Company of the Carolinas, Inc., d/b/a CenturyLink (“CenturyLink”) *See* Commission Order No. 2012-75 in Docket No. 2011-303-C. In 2014, the Commission further expanded Palmetto’s authority to include all areas of the State except those where the incumbent local exchange carrier holds a federal rural telephone company exemption. *See* Order On 2014-802 in Docket No. 2014-324-C.

### **III. Requirements for ETC Designation**

5. Section 214(e)(2) gives States the primary responsibility for granting ETC status.<sup>2</sup> This section of the Act provides further: “Upon request and consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, the State commission ... shall, [in the case of areas not served by a rural telephone company], designate more than one common carrier as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the State commission, so long as each additional requesting carrier meets the requirements [set forth in Section 214(e)(1) for the ETC designated area].”<sup>3</sup> Upon designation as an ETC,

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<sup>2</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

the carrier shall be eligible to receive universal service support in accordance with Section 254 of the Act.<sup>4</sup>

6. The ILEC that serves the St. George exchange is BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T South Carolina ("AT&T"). AT&T is not a rural telephone company<sup>5</sup> and, therefore, the St. George exchange is not an area served by a rural telephone company. Palmetto's request for designation as an ETC in the St. George exchange is in the public interest. Palmetto seeks designation only for purposes of receiving federal universal service support for providing competitive Lifeline service to low-income customers in the St. George exchange.

7. Section 214(e)(1) of the Act requires that a carrier designated as an ETC must, throughout the Designated Service Area:

- (A) offer the services that are supported by Federal universal service support mechanisms under section 254(c), either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services (including the services offered by another eligible telecommunications carrier); and
- (B) advertise the availability of such services and the charges therefor using media of general distribution.

8. As demonstrated below, Palmetto meets the requirements set forth in section 214(e) in the areas for which it seeks designation as an ETC. Accordingly, Palmetto should be designated an ETC and thus be eligible to receive federal USF.

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<sup>4</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1).

<sup>5</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 153(37) (definition of rural telephone company).

#### IV. Palmetto Satisfies the Requirements for Designation as an ETC to Serve the Designated Service Area

9. Palmetto is a common carrier as defined in the Act.<sup>6</sup> Palmetto has previously been granted authority by the Commission to provide competitive local exchange telecommunications service in the St. George exchange.

10. Section 214(e)(1)(A) of the Act provides that carriers designated as ETCs shall, throughout the designated service area, offer the services that are supported by federal universal service support mechanisms.<sup>7</sup> The services designated for support by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") are voice telephony services and broadband services.<sup>8</sup> Eligible voice telephony and broadband services are defined as follows:

Eligible voice telephony services must provide voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent; minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge to end users; access to the emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911, to the extent the local government in an eligible carrier's service area has implemented 911 or enhanced 911 systems; and toll limitation services to qualifying low-income consumers as provided in subpart E of this part.<sup>9</sup>

Eligible broadband Internet access services must provide the capability to transport data to and receive data by wire or radio from all or substantially all Internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of the communications service, but excluding dial-up service.<sup>10</sup>

11. Palmetto will offer the services that are supported by Federal universal service support mechanisms under Section 254(c) of the Act, using either its own

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<sup>6</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 153(10).

<sup>7</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A).

<sup>8</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a).

<sup>9</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a)(1).

<sup>10</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a)(2).

facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services. Thus, Palmetto meets the requirement set forth in Section 214(e)(1)(A).

12. Specifically, Palmetto will provide voice telephony services as described above, including voice grade access to the public switched network; unlimited local usage at no additional charge to end users; access to 911; and toll limitation service for qualifying low-income customers. Palmetto will also provide broadband Internet access, *i.e.*, the capability to transport data to and receive data by wire or radio from all or substantially all Internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of the communications service, but excluding dial-up service.<sup>11</sup>

13. Upon designation as an ETC, Palmetto will participate in, and offer, Lifeline service to qualifying low-income consumers and will publicize the availability of Lifeline service in a manner reasonably designed to reach those likely to qualify for those services, as required by FCC Rules.<sup>12</sup> Palmetto will advertise the availability of and charges for Lifeline service in the Designated Service Area using media of general distribution, as required by FCC Rules.

14. The Commission has adopted additional requirements for an ETC applicant to demonstrate its capability and commitment to offer the supported services.<sup>13</sup> These regulations are similar to ones adopted by the FCC for ETC applicants.<sup>14</sup> As demonstrated below, Palmetto satisfies all of these requirements.

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<sup>11</sup> While the Commission does not regulate the provision of broadband service [*see* S.C. Code Ann. §58-9-280(G)], the Commission has the authority to designate Palmetto as an ETC for purposes of receiving federal funding, including the authority to find that Palmetto provides the supported services, which include broadband service.

<sup>12</sup> *See* 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.401-54.410; 54.405(b).

<sup>13</sup> *See* Commission Regulation 103-690(C)(a).

<sup>14</sup> *See* 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a).

15. Commitment to Provide Service to All Customers Making Reasonable Request for Service. The Commission's regulations require an ETC applicant to commit to providing service throughout the applicant's proposed designated service area to all customers making a reasonable request for service by certifying that it will "provide service on a timely basis to requesting customers within the applicant's service area where the applicant's network already passes the potential customer's premises in areas."<sup>15</sup> If the potential customer is within the applicant's licensed service area but outside its existing network coverage, the applicant must certify that service will be provided within a reasonable period of time if service can be provided at reasonable cost by:

- (a) modifying or replacing the requesting customer's equipment;
- (b) deploying a roof-mounted antenna or other equipment; (c) adjusting the nearest cell tower; (d) adjusting network or customer facilities; (e) reselling services from another carrier's facilities to provide service; or (f) employing, leasing or constructing an additional cell site, cell extender, repeater, or other similar equipment.<sup>16</sup>

Palmetto commits to offer its services to customers making reasonable requests for such in accordance with the process set forth in Commission regulations.

16. Two-Year Advertising and Outreach Plan. For carriers like Palmetto who are not seeking High Cost Support from the USF, but are seeking ETC designation for the purpose of participation in the Lifeline program, the Commission does not require a two-year network improvement plan to be filed.<sup>17</sup> Instead, the Commission requires the Applicant to submit a two-year plan that describes the carrier's plans for advertising and outreach programs for identifying, qualifying, and enrolling eligible participants in the

<sup>15</sup> R. 103-690(C)(a)(1)(A)(1).

<sup>16</sup> R. 103-690(C)(a)(1)(A)(2). This process is identical to the process set forth by the FCC in its rules. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 202(a)(1)(i)(B).

<sup>17</sup> R. 103-690(C)(a)(1)(C).



Lifeline program.<sup>18</sup> Palmetto's "Advertising and Outreach Plan for Lifeline Service" is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**.

17. Functionality in Emergencies. The Commission's regulations require that an ETC applicant demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a "reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, its ability to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and its capability of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations."<sup>19</sup> Palmetto meets this requirement.

18. Satisfaction of Consumer Protection and Service Quality Standards. The Commission requires that an ETC applicant demonstrate that it will satisfy applicable consumer protection and quality standards.<sup>20</sup> As a telephone utility regulated by the Commission, Palmetto is subject to and complies with all Commission regulations governing consumer protection and service quality standards.<sup>21</sup>

19. Offers Local Usage Plans Comparable to ILECs. The Commission requires that an ETC applicant demonstrate that it offers a local usage plan comparable to the one offered by the ILEC in the service areas for which it seeks designation.<sup>22</sup> As demonstrated in its local tariff on file with the Commission, Palmetto meets this requirement.

20. Certifications by Affidavit. Under the Commission's requirements, ETC applicants must certify by affidavit signed by an officer of the company that:

<sup>18</sup> *Id.* The Commission's rule also references the Link Up program. The FCC eliminated support for Link Up services on non-Tribal lands for all ETCs, effective April 2, 2012. *See* Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, *In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization*, FCC 12-11, WC Docket No. 11-42, (rel. February 6, 2012) ("*Lifeline Reform Order*").

<sup>19</sup> R. 103-690(C)(a)(2).

<sup>20</sup> R. 103-690(C)(a)(3).

<sup>21</sup> *See generally* R. 103-600 *et seq.*

<sup>22</sup> R. 103-690(C)(a)(4).

(a) the carrier acknowledges that the Federal Communications Commission may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other eligible telecommunications carrier is providing equal access within the service area;<sup>23</sup>

(b) that the company offers or will offer the supported services by using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services;<sup>24</sup> and

(c) that the company does or will advertise in a media of general distribution the availability of such services, including lifeline services and the applicable charges.<sup>25</sup>

Attached to this Application as **Exhibit 3** is the affidavit of Jason J. Dandridge, Chief Executive Officer of Palmetto, certifying that Palmetto meets or will meet each of these requirements.

#### **V. Designating Palmetto as an ETC for Purposes of Providing Lifeline Service is in the Public Interest**

21. Section 214(e)(2) requires that the Commission grant competitive ETC applications in areas served by non-rural ILECs if the requirements of Section 214(e)(1) are met, consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.<sup>26</sup>

22. As demonstrated above, Palmetto meets all of the requirements of Section 214(e)(1). As demonstrated below, designation of Palmetto as an ETC for purposes of providing Lifeline service to low-income customers in its Designated Service Area is in the public interest.

23. Palmetto has requested designation and has limited its request for federal universal service support to the federal USF low-income support (Lifeline) program.

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<sup>23</sup> R. 103-690(C)(a)(5).

<sup>24</sup> R. 103-690(C)(a)(6).

<sup>25</sup> R. 103-690(C)(a)(7).

<sup>26</sup> 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(2).

Palmetto certifies that all low-income USF support it receives will be used to provide a credit to its Lifeline eligible customers, consistent with 47 C.F.R. § 54.403.

24. Palmetto agrees to include in its quarterly Service Quality Report the number and justification of applications held for more than 30 days and the number and justification of applications that were denied. Palmetto will only seek direct low-income support from the federal USF for those lines provided through the use of its own facilities or through a combination of its own facilities and the leased facilities of another carrier. Palmetto also agrees to report quarterly the percentage of consumers offered Lifeline through resale of another carrier's service.

25. Palmetto will utilize the same qualifying criteria for Lifeline as are used by the incumbent carriers serving those areas.<sup>27</sup> Palmetto will abide by all advertising, reporting, and verification requirements established by the FCC and the Commission.

26. Palmetto agrees to provide voice telephony Lifeline customers an additional \$3.50 state Lifeline credit.<sup>28</sup>

27. Should Palmetto seek designation as an ETC for purposes of receiving high cost support, it will file an additional and separate application with the Commission that addresses all applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, an appropriate build-out plan.

28. Upon designation, Palmetto will make any changes to its tariff to reflect the provision of Lifeline service as may be necessary or appropriate.

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<sup>27</sup> See Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, *In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization*, FCC 12-11, WC Docket No. 11-42, (rel. February 6, 2012) ("*Lifeline Reform Order*").

<sup>28</sup> The additional state discount will be applied to those customer accounts that receive the federal discount applicable to voice customers as described in 47 C.F.R. §54.403 for as long as such customers qualify for a federal Lifeline discount. While Palmetto does not intend to seek funding from the State USF at this time, Palmetto reserves the right to seek funding from the State USF for the state-matching portion of the Lifeline discount should it be appropriate to do so.

**VI. Relief Requested**

29. For the foregoing reasons, Palmetto respectfully requests that the Commission grant this Application and designate Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC as an ETC for the Designated Service Area; and grant such other and further relief as is just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margaret M. Fox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

M. John Bowen, Jr.  
Margaret M. Fox  
Burr & Forman, LLP  
P O Box 11390  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Telephone: (803) 799-9800  
Facsimile: (803) 753-3278  
Email: jbowen@burr.com; pfox@burr.com

Attorneys for Palmetto Telephone Communications,  
LLC

Columbia, South Carolina  
August 26, 2020

## Exhibit 1

### List of Wire Centers

AT&T Wire Centers for Which  
Palmetto Seeks ETC Designation

STGRSCMARS1

## Exhibit 2

### Advertising and Outreach Plan For Lifeline Service

PALMETTO TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

ADVERTISING AND OUTREACH PLAN

FOR LIFELINE SERVICE

Revised August 3, 2020

GENERAL:

1. This Plan is being submitted in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. Regs. § 103-690.C(1)(C), and describes Palmetto Telephone's plans for advertising and outreach programs for identifying, qualifying, and enrolling participants in the Lifeline program.

ADVERTISING AND OUTREACH:

1. Palmetto Telephone's parent company, Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc., has offered Lifeline service since the inception of this program in rural telephone company areas in South Carolina. Palmetto Telephone likewise offers this service to eligible low-income customers in the area it serves. Palmetto Telephone will undertake reasonable efforts to increase consumer awareness of Lifeline service in order to maximize enrollment in this program by eligible low-income consumers.
2. Palmetto Telephone currently offers a full range of local exchange services. Palmetto Telephone will notify its existing customers about the Lifeline program, and the availability of Lifeline service from Palmetto Telephone, via an annual bill insert. Each Palmetto Telephone customer also receives an annual telephone directory from Palmetto Telephone's parent company, Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. That directory includes a notice in the front of the directory regarding Lifeline service.
3. Palmetto Telephone will advise new customers when they apply for service with Palmetto Telephone about the availability of Lifeline service, and will assist qualifying customers in enrolling in the Lifeline program. Palmetto will keep educational flyers promoting Lifeline service in its customer service offices.
4. Palmetto Telephone will also conduct outreach efforts in coordination with governmental agencies and other organizations that administer relevant governmental assistance programs and cater to those likely to qualify for support. These may include social service agencies, community centers, United Way, and others. Palmetto Telephone will provide informational materials to these agencies and organizations regarding Palmetto Telephone's Lifeline service.



5. In accordance with state and federal requirements, Palmetto Telephone will publicize the availability of Lifeline service in media of general distribution in a manner reasonably designed to reach those likely to qualify for the service. See R. 103-690.C(a)(7); 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(b). Palmetto Telephone will use advertising media and outreach efforts with a proven track record of effectively identifying and educating potential subscribers of Lifeline service. Specifically, Palmetto Telephone will begin advertising the availability of Lifeline service in the designated areas using media of general distribution after receiving designation. Palmetto will advertise at least annually in *Press and Standard*. This publication is widely distributed throughout the designated area. Palmetto Telephone believes that advertising in this publication will be effective and is reasonably designed to reach those likely to qualify for the support, consistent with 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.405.

#### QUALIFICATION AND ENROLLMENT:

1. Lifeline is a program that provides eligible consumers with a monthly recurring discount off the rate for basic local exchange service. See 47 C.F.R. § 54.403. Palmetto Telephone is committed to providing the maximum federal discount available to all qualifying customers who enroll in the Lifeline program.
2. Consumers are eligible for Lifeline support if they meet the eligibility requirements set forth by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and/or the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission"). *See* 47 C.F.R. § 54.409, as may be amended from time to time.
3. All advertising and outreach materials will direct consumers to call Palmetto Telephone at either its local business office (843-538-2020 or 843-931-1212) or toll-free at 866-565-0404. Palmetto Telephone's customer service representatives will assist customers in determining whether they are eligible for Lifeline service. When a customer is deemed eligible, representatives of the Company will direct the customer to come to the Company's business office (if s/he is not already there) to show proof of enrollment in a qualifying program and to complete such appropriate certification forms as the FCC and/or the Commission may require.
4. Each subscriber to Lifeline must certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that s/he receives benefits under a qualifying program or meets the income criteria set forth by the FCC and must, on that same document, agree to notify the Company if s/he ceases to participate in the program(s) or ceases to meet the income criteria for eligibility. The Company may require the subscriber to authorize the Company to access any records necessary to verify the subscriber's statements, and may require the subscriber to furnish proof of participation in a qualifying program. The certification form will conform to the requirements described herein, and will be made available upon request to any subscriber. The Company will retain all such subscriber certifications in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by

Universal Service administrators. Eligibility and certification requirements are subject to change as directed by the FCC and/or the Commission.

VERIFICATION OF CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY:

1. Palmetto Telephone verifies continued eligibility of enrolled participants as required by the FCC and/or the Commission. Verification requirements and procedures are subject to change as directed by the FCC and/or the Commission.

## Exhibit 3

Affidavit of Jason J. Dandridge

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF COLLETON )

BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA

Application of	)	
	)	Docket No. _____
Palmetto Telephone Communications,	)	
LLC for Designation as an Eligible	)	AFFIDAVIT OF
Telecommunications Carrier	)	JASON J. DANDRIDGE
	)	

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PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME the undersigned WHO, BEING  
DULY SWORN, deposed and said:

1. My name is Jason J. Dandridge, and I am a citizen of the State of South Carolina. I am of sound mind and am over the age of twenty-one years.
2. I am competent to testify to the matters stated herein.
3. The matters stated herein are based on my personal knowledge.
4. I am the Chief Executive Officer for Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC ("Palmetto").
5. Palmetto has filed an Application ("Application") with the South Carolina Public Service Commission ("Commission") for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") in the St. George, SC exchange.
6. I have reviewed and am familiar with the contents of the Application and Exhibits thereto, and attest to the veracity of the statements and information contained therein.

7. I hereby certify that if Palmetto is granted ETC designation by the Commission in the St. George, SC exchange, Palmetto will provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other ETC is providing equal access within the St. George, SC exchange.

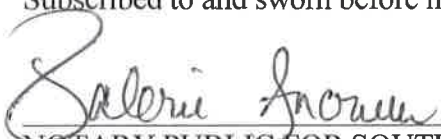
8. I also certify that Palmetto currently offers all of the services that are supported by the federal universal support mechanisms using Palmetto's own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and of another carrier's services.

9. Further, I certify that Palmetto will advertise, in a media of general distribution, the availability of the services that are supported by the federal universal support mechanisms, and applicable charges for those services.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

  
Jason J. Dandridge  
Chief Executive Officer  
Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC

Subscribed to and sworn before me this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020.

  
NOTARY PUBLIC FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

Valerie Ancrum  
Printed Name of Notary

My Commission Expires: 7-15-2029



## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

## CLERK'S OFFICE

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

DOCKET NO. 2012-236-C

Docket Summary: Application of Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC to Expand Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (Lifeline Only) to Include St. George Exchange

Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC ("Palmetto" or the "Applicant") has filed with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") an Application to expand its designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") to include the St. George exchange (the "Designated Service Area"). Palmetto is seeking only low income (Lifeline) support, and is not requesting high cost support. Palmetto previously was designated as an ETC within the Walterboro and Yemassee exchanges for these purposes. The Application was filed pursuant to Section 214(e) of the Federal Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214(e), the implementing rules of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-690 (Supp. 2011), and the rules of the Commission.

A copy of the Company's application can be found on the Commission's website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov) under Docket No. 2012-236-C. Additionally, a copy of the application is available from the Company's representative Margaret M. Fox, Esquire, McNair Law Firm, P.A., Post Office Box 11390, Columbia, South Carolina 29211.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on the above matter has been scheduled to begin on \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, before the Commission in the Commission's Hearing Room at 101 Executive Center Drive, Saluda Building, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter as a party of record with the right of cross-examination, should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on or before \_\_\_\_\_, and indicate the amount of time required to address the Commission. For the receipt of future Commission correspondence, please include an email address in the Petition to Intervene. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2012-236-C.***

Any person who wishes to be notified of any change in the hearing, but does not wish to present testimony or be a party of record, may do so by notifying the Commission, in writing, at the address below on or before \_\_\_\_\_. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2012-236-C.***

For the most recent information regarding this docket, including changes in scheduled dates included in this Notice please refer to [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov) and Docket No. 2020-205-C.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments in person to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's procedures should contact the Commission at (803) 896-5100 or visit its website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov).